

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

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September 17, 2001

To: All Public Water Systems

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITY LIST.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about low-interest loans available for source water protection (SWP) projects under the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF).

In the current fiscal year \$4 million of the SDWSRF has been set aside for such loans. The loans can be used to fund drinking water source protection projects for community water systems, as well as land or easement acquisition by community and non-profit noncommunity water systems. Water systems owned or operated by federal or state agencies are not eligible to apply.

SWP loan funds may be used for planning, preliminary engineering, detailed design, construction, education, land acquisition, conservation easements, equipment purchase, and implementing the elements of a source water protection program. The types of projects that may be eligible for funding are described in the instructions for the loan pre-application.

Projects that are ineligible for funding include those for which other funding mechanisms already exist, such as cleanup for identified hazardous waste sites and leaking underground storage tanks.

The first step in the SWP loan program is the establishment of a Project Priority List (PPL) which will be developed from "pre-application" forms that are received from interested public water systems. If your water system may be interested in SWP loan, you are encouraged to submit a pre-application. Additional funding may be allocated in future years if it is demonstrated that there is a strong interest in SWP projects. If you submitted a pre-application previously you do not need to reapply, but you may modify your pre-application or submit additional information if desired.

Projects will be prioritized based on the type of contaminant to be addressed, and the proximity of the contaminant to the drinking water source (i.e., the zone in which the

project is located). A list of the types of contaminants and zones is shown on the back of the pre-application form.

As you may be aware, the Department is implementing the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) program. Completion of a DWSAP assessment is not a prerequisite for a SWP loan pre-application. However, an assessment may be useful in identifying appropriate source water protection projects and in completing the SWP pre-application.

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Submitting a pre-application and having a project ranked on the PPL does not obligate a water system in any way nor is there any guarantee that being on the PPL will result in the awarding of SWP loan funds.

If your water system wishes to submit a pre-application, you should use the attached pre-application form. Instructions for filling out the form are also attached. The pre-application form must be returned to the District Office covering your area (see list attached) by close of business on November 1, 2001. If you have any questions about the pre-application or the SWP loan program, please contact the District Office.

Sincerely,

Nadine Feletto, Senior Sanitary Engineer
Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund